In the Claims:

1. (currently amended): A pigment comprising, ~~the~~ particles ~~of which generally have~~ having a length of from 2 μm to 5 mm, a width of from 2 μm to 2 mm, and a thickness of from 20 nm to 2 μm, and a ratio of length to thickness of at least 2 : 1, wherein the particles contain a core of SiO_y with $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.95$, ~~especially $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$,~~ having two substantially parallel faces, the distance between which is the shortest axis of the core, and
~~comprising~~ (a) a material~~, especially a metal oxide,~~ having a high index of refraction.

2. (currently amended): ~~The~~ A pigment comprising, ~~the~~ particles ~~of which generally have~~ having a length of from 2 μm to 5 mm, a width of from 2 μm to 2 mm, and a thickness of from 20 nm to 2 μm, and a ratio of length to thickness of at least 2 : 1, wherein the particles contain a core of SiO_y with $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.95$, ~~especially $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$,~~ having two substantially parallel faces, the distance between which is the shortest axis of the core, and ~~comprising~~
(a) a thin semi-transparent metal layer.

3. (original): The pigment according to claim 1, wherein the pigment comprises in addition (b) a metal oxide of low refractive index, wherein the difference of the refractive indices is at least 0,1.

4. (currently amended): The pigment according to claim 1, ~~or 3,~~ wherein the metal oxide of high refractive index is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of TiO_2, ZrO_2, Fe_2O_3, Fe_3O_4, Cr_2O_3, ZnO, ~~or a mixture of these oxides or~~ an iron titanate, an iron oxide hydrate, and a titanium suboxide or a ~~mixture and/or~~ mixed phase of these compounds.

5. (currently amended): The pigment according to ~~any of~~ claim [[s]] ~~1,~~ 3, ~~or 4,~~ wherein the metal oxide of low index of refraction is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of SiO_2, Al_2O_3, AlOOH [[,]] and B_2O_3, ~~or a mixture thereof,~~ wherein alkali or earth alkali metal oxides can be contained as additional component.

6. (currently amended): The pigment according to ~~any of~~ claim [[s]] 1 ~~to 5,~~ wherein the SiO_y core has a thickness of from 20 to 200 nm. ~~, especially from 50 to 150 nm, most preferred 60 to 120 nm.~~

7. (currently amended): A process for producing the ~~interference~~ pigment according to ~~any of~~ claim [[s]] ~~1 and~~ 3 ~~to 6,~~ by alternately coating SiO_y flakes with a metal oxide with a high refractive index and a metal oxide with a low refractive index in a wet process by hydrolysis of the corresponding water-soluble metal compounds, by separating, drying and optionally calcinating the pigment thus obtained.

8. (original): A process for producing the pigment according to claim 2, wherein SiO_y flakes are suspended in an aqueous and/or organic solvent containing medium in the presence of a metal compound and the metal compound is deposited onto SiO_y flakes by addition of a reducing agent.

9. (currently amended): A pigment comprising ~~, the~~ particles ~~of which generally have~~ having a length of from 2 μm to 5 mm, a width of from 2 μm to 2 mm, and a ratio of length to thickness of at least 2 : 1, wherein the particles contain a core with a thickness of from 20 to 200 nm of SiO_2 or a silicon/silicon oxide core ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating SiO_y flakes with $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.80$, ~~especially $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$,~~ in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature of at least 400°C, having two substantially parallel faces, the distance between which is the shortest axis of the core, ~~comprising~~ and
a material~~, especially a metal oxide,~~ having a high index of refraction, or
a thin semi-transparent metal layer and optionally further layers. ~~, wherein the core has a thickness of from 20 to 200 nm, especially from 40 to 150 nm, most preferred 60 to 120 nm.~~

10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): Paints, printing inks, textiles, coatings, plastics, cosmetics, glazes for ceramics and glass, which are pigmented with a pigment Pigment according to ~~any of~~ claim [[s]] 1 ~~to 6 or 9.~~

12 (new): A pigment according to claim 1, wherein $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$ and the material having a high index of refraction is a metal oxide.

13. (new): A pigment according to claim 2, wherein $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$.

14. (new): A pigment according to claim 3, wherein the metal oxide of high refractive index is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of TiO_2, ZrO_2, Fe_2O_3, Fe_3O_4, Cr_2O_3, ZnO, an iron titanate, an iron oxide hydrate and a titanium suboxide, or a mixed phase of these compounds.

15. (new): The pigment according to claim 1, wherein the SiO_y core has a thickness of from 50 to 150 nm.

16. (new): The pigment according to claim 1, wherein the SiO_y core has a thickness of from 60 to 120 nm.

17. (new): The pigment according to claim 2, wherein the SiO_y core has a thickness of from 20 to 200 nm.

18. (new): The pigment according to claim 2, wherein the SiO_y core has a thickness of from 50 to 150 nm.

19. (new): The pigment according to claim 2, wherein the SiO_y core has a thickness of from 60 to 120 nm.

20. (new): A pigment according to claim 9, wherein the thickness of the particle core is from 50 to 150 nm, $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$ and and the material having a high index of refraction is a metal oxide.

21. (new): Paints, printing inks, textiles, coatings, plastics, cosmetics, glazes for ceramics and glass, which are pigmented with a pigment Pigment according to claim 2.